

UNITED CHURCH AFTER METHODIST CENTENARY MOVEMENT WHICH FINANCED CONSTRUCTION



The Centenary Methodist church, which has been erected on the corner of Eighteenth avenue and Thirty-eighth street covers a space of 35,556 feet. The estimated cost for the erection of the edifice was \$150,000. The basement runs the entire length of the building and has a 9-foot ceiling. It is divided into classrooms, kitchen and boiler room.

Ministerial Alliance Review Finds Youth Past 'Jazz' Stage; Adds to Christianity Progress

BY JOHN MCGOWN STEVENSON, President, Rock Island Ministerial Alliance.

The year that has just closed stands out as one of the great years in the history of Christianity in Rock Island. This judgment is the consensus of opinion of the clergy and workers in 18 of the Rock Island Protestant churches. This report includes six denominations and two interdenominational organizations.

The work of the churches carries with it a large amount of regular routine service which is not noticed by the public at large, and much of it not even by many of the members of the church. There are a great number of people in each of the churches whose classification may be best designated as voluntary lay service. This includes the Sunday school teachers, church officers, aid organizations, and the like. These workers carry the great body of service in the churches and are seldom praised and much less noticed. It is in the quietness of their work that they are here in recording the work for the year.

There are a number of common denominations which run through any tabulation that may be made in the church year. The first outstanding note without an exception can be stated in the word "increase." This concerns membership generally and down through all the organizations. There is not one report without an increase. Some of them are quite considerable.

Figures are not mentioned here for the very simple and obvious reason that the formulae of arithmetic does not serve to compute the spiritual values gained or deepened in the church's work.

Young people's organizations show sound vigor. We are getting past the jazz stage and our young people are seeking for truth. This may be born out by anyone who will stand and face the questioning eyes of any group of our young men and women. The Sunday schools have gained. Fathers and mothers are realizing the need of religious education and as that task is definitely the church's field, it is astonishing the amount of cooperation that is received from the parents whose children are in the earlier years. It should however be noted that while there is a stiffening in matters of discipline in the 'teen age there is difficulty in the parent exercising effective and judicious authority.

The second common note is that of "generosity." The overseas in the churches has been rather considerable this last year. A number of the churches have redecorated interiors and exteriors. Furnaces have been installed and repairs executed throughout the entire plants. This has cost large sums of money. Notwithstanding this unusual overhead there is reported increases in what the churches term "benevolences." This means monies which have been given from the local church to the national boards of the denominations for the extension of Christ's kingdom in the friendly service of the world.

Ministries at Home and Abroad.

We should remember that the flag follows the missionary and the business agent the flag. It should be said that large sums of this money through the national agencies of the church have been given in relief in devastated France, for rehabilitation in Armenia to feed the starving, in Russia and some to China. Then there have been the Glaciers, the Anti-Slavery league, church colleges, the American Bible society, retirement fund for the minister, taxes to support local, state and national maintenance for the denominational machinery.

There are two relief agencies here in the city, one the child of

CHURCH CLERGY DECIDE POLICIES IN ROCK ISLAND

Two denominational conferences, the Central Illinois Methodist conference, being held Sept. 15-17, and the second, the conference of the Disciples of Christ of Illinois, holding sessions Oct. 2-4. The central Illinois conference brought 600 visitors to the city, the gathering being held at the First Methodist church and presided over by Bishop Thomas Nicholson, Chicago.

The most important action was the refusal of the conference to undertake the continuation and maintenance of Harding college, Abingdon, the situation as to that educational institution being the "storm center" of the meet.

Delegates for the most part were entertained in private homes, where they were the recipients of hospitality. Several notable addresses were made by Bishop Nicholson and the conference as a body condemning violations of the prohibition law and other economic and social evils.

Dr. John T. Jones, head of the Rock Island district, under the conference for the past six years, was responsible to that body. He reported that the district, which comprises 62 pastoral charges with 84 churches, has had a remarkable growth in the 6-year period.

District's Progress.

The church membership has advanced from 10,313 to 12,860; the Sunday school enrollment from 12,923 to 14,177; ministerial support from \$69,862 to \$117,606; valuation of church property from \$66,100 to \$358,500; valuation of parsonage property from \$124,500 to \$250,200, and the total benevolences from \$28,702 to \$79,359.

Nineteen new churches have been erected and 15 parsonages in the district except one recently organized has a parsonage and all except seven are modern in their equipment.

Several new churches are now in course of erection. The first church, Moline, is building a \$100,000 structure and Lacon, Ill., is to have a plant suitable for a modern constructive rural program at a cost of \$50,000.

Dr. Paul L. Vogt, secretary of the rural department of the board of home missions, recently stated that he had made a survey of all the rural districts of Methodism, but had found none which had made such progress as the Rock Island district.

Christian Church Meeting.

The convention of the Disciples of Christ in October is said by

GROUP LEADERS ABLY HANDLED Y. W. C. A. WORK

The sixth year of the Young Women's Christian association has been the year of the work carried on by the secretaries of the various departments, without a general secretary. The association notwithstanding has made remarkable progress during the year.

The secretaries who have been in charge are: Mrs. Edna Tucker, office secretary; Miss Laura Huber, girls' work secretary; Mrs. Mary Johnson, house secretary, and Mrs. F. E. Marshall, cafeteria director. Miss May Belle Schriber, St. Paul, will take up her duties as general secretary, New Year's day.

There have been 1,298 meetings of clubs, classes and committees. Special classes in millinery and dressmaking are held in the spring and fall. Attention is given to securing employment for girls, also lodging in private homes for those who wish it. Furnishing information forms no small part of the work of the local organization.

There is a business girls' Bible class each Tuesday evening and Wednesday noon. Mrs. Harriet Rannan, St. Paul, was in Rock Island in February for the third course of Bible lectures. She has been secured again for the first week of February, 1923. In addition to the regular association activities, 98 outside organizations have made use of the building during the year.

The residence at 1414 Third avenue, with its 35 rooms, affords girls a clean, well furnished home with

TRINITY PARISH ENDS YEAR OF SPIRITUAL GAINS

Sunday School Enrollment Increased in Half Decade; Choir Presents Notable Works.

Increase of the number of communicants of the parish to 400, a Sunday school membership of 200 are noted as the chief accomplishments in the record of Trinity Episcopal church during the last months. The Sunday school membership has doubled within the year.

Among the events of the year a day of devotion conducted for women of the parish last February by Rev. Harold L. Bowen, rector, St. Peter's church, Chicago. During the year the church choir in addition to faithful work at the services of the church, gave two sacred oratorios, "Christ, His Soldiers", by John Farmer, and "The Mater", by John Farmer, in addition to the appreciation of the offerings. At Easter 300 communications were made and an offering of \$1,500 presented.

Class of 30 Confirmed.

Rev. Edward Pawcett, D. D., bishop of Quincy, visited the parish and confirmed a class of 30. The rector, the Rev. W. L. Dunn, attended the general convention of the Episcopal church in Portland, Ore., as a clerical delegate from the diocese of Quincy, and has preached during the year in several other parishes by invitation of the clergyman in charge, including St. Peter's, Chicago.

A series of addresses on the "History of the Church of England" with special reference to its historic continuity and catholicity were delivered by the rector.

The Men's club of the parish held some very interesting meetings addressed by speakers of note and ability. All the parish organizations have been diligent in their work and report success in their various fields.

NEW PRIEST IN CATHOLIC RANKS

Instruction League for Children Outstanding Work of Year; Church Aids Helpful.

Clergy of Rock Island's Catholic parishes report a very encouraging year in every department of church activity.

The instruction league is declared to have accomplished an excellent work, under the capable leadership of Miss Elizabeth Maucker. Children are gathered once a week from public schools and are taught their religious lessons. This is in addition to their duties on Saturdays and Sundays in the various churches.

St. Joseph's parochial school has an enrollment of 650 children, of whom 150 belong to Sacred Heart. The high school and commercial departments have the largest number in their history, which necessitates the addition of another room.

The St. Mary's church property has been thoroughly renovated and newly painted. An eighth grade school is maintained with an enrollment of 70 children, the children going to St. Joseph's high school or to the public high school after finishing these courses.

During the past year the St. Paul's church plant has been put in excellent shape. Bishop Dunne has made a change in the pastorate, and a new rector, Father Van Stappen, has assumed charge.

The most important work before the parish of the Sacred Heart is the erection of a new school building, which will be commenced next spring. It is hoped to have the plant in readiness by September, 1923. There will be eight rooms in the building with a large gymnasium and assembly hall.

The Catholic clergy state that a feature of church work from which no small result is expected, is the carrying of the weekly advertisement in The Argus. This is inserted, they state, not in a spirit of controversy, but to give the public a statement of Catholic faith as held throughout the ages. In the words of Rev. C. P. O'Neill, Sacred Heart church, "it enables us to reach readers who otherwise could not be reached. The church is a believer in the apostolate of the press."

Happy New Year

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